



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,525	12/05/2003	Rajeev Jain	ORCL-001/OID-2003-140-01	7323

51121 7590 07/29/2009
LAW FIRM OF NAREN THAPPETA
C/o Landon-IP Inc.,
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 450
Alexandria, VA 22314

EXAMINER

REFAI, RAMSEY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3627

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

07/29/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

lfnt2000@yahoo.com
oracle@iphorizons.com
intercomm@iphorizons.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/727,525	Applicant(s) JAIN ET AL.	
	Examiner RAMSEY REFAI	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 9, 12, 21-24, 29, 32, 41-44, 49, 52, 61-64, 69 and 72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8, 10, 11, 13-20, 25-28, 30, 31, 33-40, 45-48, 50, 51, 53-60, 65-68, 70, 71 and 73-80 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3627

DETAILED ACTION

Responsive to Amendment filed April 15, 2009. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-13, 16-18, 21-43, 45-46, 48-53, 56-58, 61-63, 65-66, 68-73, and 76-78 have been amended. Claims 1-80 remain pending.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 9, 12, 21-24, 29, 32, 41-44, 49, 52, 61-64, 69, and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aram (US 2002/0072986) in view of Grosvenor et al (US 7,216,086).

4. As per claim 1, Aram teaches a method of processing orders related to a family of products in a supply chain management system, said family of products containing a plurality of member items (**parts for the item requested**), said method comprising:

receiving in a computer system a *time duration* associated with each of said plurality of member items in pair with a first member item, wherein said first member item is also contained in said plurality of member items (**see at least paragraphs [0023-0025, 0032, 0036]**);

Art Unit: 3627

receiving in said computer system a first order specifying a first required quantity of said first member item and a first required date, wherein said first required date is after said *time duration* from a time said first order is received, and wherein only Qavail units of said first member item are scheduled to be available as of said first required date, wherein Qavail is less than said first required quantity **(see at least paragraphs [0017-0021])**;

determining in said computer system a first available quantity of all of said plurality of member items scheduled to be available after said *time duration* and as of said first required date and as second available quantity of said first member item scheduled to be available as of end of said *time duration* **(see at least paragraph [0017-0024,0036])**; and

indicating in said computer system that said first order be promised if said determining determines that said first available quantity and said second available quantity scheduled to be available as of said first required date is sufficient to fulfill said first required quantity **(see at least paragraphs [0017-0021])**.

Aram teaches time duration associated with each item but fails to explicitly teach a *time fence* duration. However, in the same field of endeavor, Grosvenor et al teach a supply management system that uses time fence duration **(see at least column 4, lines 46-51)**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Grosvenor with Aram because doing so would allow for Aram's system to obtain a period of time for when the parts for an item are to available in order to estimate a time period of when the order will be fulfilled.

5. As per claim 2, Aram teaches wherein said TF duration equals aggregate TF (ATF) duration when said TF duration is equal for all pairs of member items **(see at least paragraphs [0017-0021]; time is the same when all parts are available to fulfill order)**.

Art Unit: 3627

6. As per claim 3, Aram teaches if said determining determines that at least said first required quantity of all of said plurality of member items is not scheduled to be available as of said first required date, further comprising: computing an ATP date in which said first required quantity of said first member item will be available based on available first required quantity and said available second quantity; and accepting said first order with a promise date equaling said ATP date **(see at least paragraphs [0017-0021])**.
7. As per claim 4, Aram teaches wherein a user is provided an option to indicate whether said ATP date is acceptable, wherein said accepting is performed only if said user indicates that said ATP date is acceptable **(see at least paragraph [0023])**.
8. As per claim 9, Aram teaches computing in said computer system said first available quantity as an aggregate of a present family availability, indicated by an aggregate quantity of all of said plurality of member items available each day after said ATF duration as of said first required date; and allocating in said computer system a first portion from said present family availability and a second portion from second available quantity scheduled to be available for said first member item as of end of said ATF duration **(see at least paragraphs [(see at least paragraphs [0017-0021, 0023, 0036])]**.
9. As per claim 12, Aram teaches receiving in said computer system a third order specifying a third quantity of said first member item and a third required date, wherein said third required date is within said ATF duration, wherein said third quantity is less than or equal to said second available quantity of said first member item as on said third required date; and promising in said computer system that said third order can be promised **(see at least paragraph [0017-0024,0036]; the process can be repeated for items that contain a plurality of parts)**.

Art Unit: 3627

10. Claims 21-24, 29, 32, 41-44, 49, 52, 61-64, 69, and 72 contains similar limitations as claims 1-4, 9, and 12 above and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 5-8, 10-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-31, 33-40, 45-48, 50-51, 53-60, 65-68, 70-71, and 73-80 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon, which is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, are cited in the Notice of Reference Cited form (PTO-892).

Examiner's Note: The Examiner has cited specific citations in the reference(s) as applied to the claim(s) above for the convenience of the Applicant. Although the specified citations are

Art Unit: 3627

representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the Applicant, in preparing their response, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramsey Refai whose telephone number is (571) 272-3975. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ramsey Refai
July 24, 2009
/Ramsey Refai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3627